United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1353
18 March 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Secretary-General conveys to Prime Minister Rabin of Israel his "serious concern" at situation in occupied territories; that unresolved issue of Palestinian deportees may continue to be a "stumbling block" in re-integration of Palestinians in peace process; both men agree that Peace Talks should be resumed as soon as possible.

• Security Council welcomes report by Commission on the Truth on El Salvador; urges all parties to comply with recommendations.

• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, expresses "strong concern" at all obstacles preventing delivery of humanitarian aid to population of Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica; food convoy to Bosnia and Herzegovina held by local Serbian forces at Bosnian-Serb border.

• Security Council strongly condemns violations of "no-fly" zone in Bosnia and Herzegovina; demands explanation from Bosnian Serb side for aerial bombardement of Bosnian towns; requests investigation to be conducted.

• Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia suspends meeting, as fact-finding mission will travel to Kismayo tomorrow to "ascertain the facts"; to report back on Saturday.

• United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission concludes ninth session in Geneva; reaffirms importance of navigational access for both States to various parts of their territory bordering demarcated boundary.

• Solidarity between women of North and South emphasized at opening of session of Commission on Status of Women in Vienna.

• World Food Programme to provide emergency food aid to Togolese refugees in Benin.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today conveyed to Prime Minister Rabin of Israel his "serious concern" at the situation in the occupied territories. He stressed the importance of the implementation of resolution 681 (1990), which deals with the protection of civilians in the occupied territories.

According to a press release issued by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General tonight, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also conveyed to Mr. Rabin that the unresolved issue of the Palestinian deportees may continue to be a stumbling block in the re-integration of the Palestinians in the peace process. They both agreed that the Peace Talks should be resumed as soon as possible. The Secretary-General informed the Israeli Prime Minister that the United Nations was actively preparing for the Multilateral Working Groups "as and when they resumed".

Mr. Rabin recommended to the Secretary-General that the budget of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the occupied territories be increased, which would greatly benefit the Palestinian population in those areas.

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The Security Council has welcomed the submission of the report of the Commission on the Truth and of its recommendations to prevent the repetition of the acts of violence committed during the 12 years of armed confrontation in El Salvador. It has also welcomed the recent efforts to apply fully the peace accords in El Salvador and acknowledged the sense of responsibility and cooperation demonstrated by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to reach this objective.

In a statement read out this morning following a formal meeting of the Security Council, its President, Terence O'Brien (New Zealand), also underlined the need for the parties, in accordance with the peace accords, to comply with the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Truth, as well as "all other obligations which remained to be implemented".

The Council's members also called upon the Salvadorian society to continue acting with the responsibility which it has demonstrated throughout the peace process, in order to contribute to the consolidation of internal peace and the maintenance of a genuine and lasting atmosphere of national harmony.

The Council invited the Secretary-General to keep it informed regarding the implementation of the parties' pending commitments and expressed its willingness to assist the parties "as appropriate" to achieve the successful completion of the peace process in El Salvador.

The Commission on the Truth, set up to investigate acts of violence committed by both sides during the conflict in El Salvador, issued its report on Monday, 15 March.

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In a press release issued today in Geneva, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, expressed strong concern over "all obstacles" preventing the delivery of vital relief supplies to the embattled Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica. The situation in the region is becoming increasingly desperate, the press release noted.

"I vehemently condemn the unacceptable attitude of the Bosnian Serb military, who are preventing -- despite all their verbal and written commitments -- the access of humanitarian assistance to the victims", she said.

Stating that it was a matter of life or death for thousands of innocent people, Mrs. Ogata called on world leaders to send in aid to Srebrenica by all "possible means". She also welcomed the intervention of the authorities in Belgrade to put an end to this situation, but expressed regrets that it had not been enough, the release noted.

The UNHCR warned that at least 60,000 people, who were trapped in the vicinity of Srebrenica, faced death by fighting, starvation, exposure and lack of medical care.

In a separate development, a United Nations convoy which left the Serbian town of Mali Zornik today with vital relief supplies for Srebrenica was turned back by local Serbian forces.

According to a United Nations spokesman at Headquarters today, the 14-truck convoy was stopped on the Serbian side of the border despite previous assurances from Belgrade authorities that it would be authorized to proceed.

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The Security Council, citing two recent violations of its resolution establishing a "no-fly" zone over the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina, last night strongly condemned such violations and demanded that they cease immediately.

In a statement read out by its President, Terence O'Brien (New Zealand), the Council demanded from the Bosnian Serbs an immediate explanation of the aerial bombardment of two Bosnian towns - Gladovici and Osatica - by planes which were then seen leaving in the direction of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to ensure that an investigation was conducted into the possible use of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to launch air attacks against Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also mandated its President to convey to the Yugoslav Foreign Minister and to the leader of the Bosnian Serbs its demand that they take immediate action against the repetition of such attacks.

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The Council, which was informed about the incidents by the Secretary-General in two letters, noted that some 465 violations of the no-fly zone had been reported since the beginning of the monitoring operations in November 1992. However, the most recent violations were the first ones observed by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to involve combat activity.

In separate development, the spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, told correspondents that Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen met today with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Later on, the Co-Chairmen also met with Mate Boban, the Bosnian Croat leader, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, separately. At the time, no date for a formal meeting between all parties had been set.

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A fact-finding team set up by the Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia, will visit the port city of Kismayo on Friday to "ascertain facts" relating to recent clashes between warring Somali factions, according to a spokesman today. The clashes led to the "suspension" of the reconciliation talks currently held in Addis Ababa.

The spokesman said the fact-finding team would visit the Somali city to meet with leaders of the feuding Somali factions. They would report to the Conference on Saturday, when the talks were likely to reconvene, he added.

Meanwhile, according to a summary of the Conference in Addis Ababa issued today, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lansana Kouyate, yesterday met with representatives of the Somali political factions, including General Aideed.

The General, according to the summary, said he had no "intention" to withdraw from the Conference, but reiterated his demand that the Conference condemn the attack on Kismayo, "allegedly" carried out by forces loyal to Mr. Mohammed Siad Hersi, known as General Morgan.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe, arrived in Addis Ababa today, to participate in the reconciliation talks.

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United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission reaffirmed the importance of navigational access for both States to the various parts of their respective territories bordering the demarcated boundary as a means to ensure an equitable character and to promote stability, peace and security along the border.

The Commission also noted that the right of navigation and access was provided for under the rules of international law, as embodied in the 1982

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United Nations Convention of the Law of the sea ratified by both Iraq and Kowait.

The Commission further decided on the marking of certain areas of the boundary between the two countries, as it concluded its ninth session held in Geneva this week.

It took this action after reviewing the results of the aerial photography conducted in February in preparation for additional large-scale mapping and for the determination of the low-water springs for demarcation purposes.

The Commission's next session is scheduled for 30 April.

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The Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women, Merwat Tallawi from Egypt, opened the body's thirty-seventh session in Vienna yesterday. She stressed that solidarity among women of the North and South was necessary in order to face the challenges of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Bejing in 1995.

In another statement, the Secretary-General of the Forth World Conference, Gertrude Mongella, pointed out that the event would provide an opportunity to see how far the international objectives on women had advanced 20 years after the first such Conference was held.

The Commission also began discussing efforts to improve the status of women in the Secretariat. A report by the Secretary-General on that issue was introduced by Chafika Meslem, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) announced yesterday in Rome that it would provide 3,600 metric tons of emergency food aid to 40,000 Togolese refugees in Benin for the next six months.

Civil unrest and growing insecurity in their country had forced more than 140,000 Togolese to flee into neighbouring Benin. 40,000 of these refugees are reported of being in need for immediate emergency food aid and shelter.

WFP already supports relief aid for a six-month period to 50,000 Togolese refugees in Ghana, at a cost of $2 million. Altogether, 300,000 persons are estimated of having sought asylum to other countries, mainly Benin and Ghana.

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CORRECTION: In Highlights of 16 March 1993, "National Alliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) should read "National Army of Democratic Kampuchea".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1354
19 March 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations relief convoy arrives in Srebrenica; meanwhile, Security Council is holding consultations on draft resolution enforcing the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina; action by Council expected early next week.

+ In Addis Ababa, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia holds series of meetings on transition between United States-led Task Force and UNOSOM II.

+ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in Near East condemns killing of United Nations teacher by Israeli forces.

+ Safeguards Agreement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains in force, confirms International Atomic Energy Agency.

+ International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination to be observed by Special Committee against Apartheid at Headquarters on Monday, 22 March.

+ New President of Disarmament Conference calls on Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its "retrograde" decision to withdraw from Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

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A 19-truck United Nations convoy carrying foods and medicine finally arrived in Srebrenica today, according to a United Nations spokesman. The United Nations was "very pleased" that the convoy had made it through, but given the number of people there and their needs, he said, "we need a convoy every day to get the material in". Two other convoys headed for Zepa and Goradze were "stuck" because they were being subjected to inventory checks.

The news of the arrival of relief convoy to the eastern Bosnian Muslim enclave came amidst consultations of the Security Council today on a draft

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resolution enforcing the "no-fly zone", sponsored by France. Consultations were expected to continue this afternoon, with action taken on the draft most likely on Monday or Tuesday, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, bilateral talks aimed at resolving the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued today at Headquarters, chaired by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference. According to their spokesman, Fred Eckhard, Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, and Lord Owen, the European Community mediator, met this morning with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader. Mr. Owen then joined a meeting between the Secretary-General and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The Co-Chairmen were also scheduled to meet with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina this afternoon, and with the Foreign Minister of Spain. A meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation was postponed until tomorrow.

In related news, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Muhamad Sacirbey, told correspondents today that President Izetbegovic had left yesterday's meetings at Headquarters, because "he feels he cannot continue under these conditions". Mr. Sacirbey said the President would be waiting in his hotel room until the conditions on the ground in his country improved.

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In Addis Ababa today, Admiral Jonathan Howe, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, held a series of meetings on the transition between the United States-led Task Force and the United Nations Observer Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM II). According to a United Nations spokesman, Admiral Howe said planning for the transition, which is scheduled to be concluded by 1 May, was "moving ahead very well".

Admiral Howe arrived in the Ethiopian capital yesterday to participate in the reconciliation talks on Somalia, which have been temporarily suspended following recent clashes between warring Somali factions in Kismayo. The Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia is expected to resume tomorrow when a fact-finding mission, sent today to Kismayo to investigate, returns to Addis Ababa to report its findings.

According to a summary of today's meetings of the Conference issued at Headquarters, Admiral Howe was briefed on the progress of the Conference by Lansana Kouyate, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General. He also met with representatives of regional organizations and various political groups to evaluate the situation in Somalia.

Representatives of all Somali political parties and non-political groups are participating in the Conference.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has condemned the killing of a UNRWA teacher by Israeli forces yesterday, according to a press release issued today in Vienna. The teacher, Yusif Al-Gharib, was shot when Israeli forces opened fire on a group of mourners near a wake house in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

The Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Ilter Turkmen, said the incident was the "result of the widespread and increased use of force by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip".

According to the Agency, since 1 December last year, Israeli troops or settlers have killed 45 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including 13 children under age 16. Some 1,800 Palestinians had also been injured during the same period, including over 350 children who were shot by live ammunition.

The UNRWA has repeatedly urged the Government of Israel to take steps to defuse the situation in the Gaza Strip, which had recently witnessed a surge of deaths among Palestinians and Israelis.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed that the Safeguards Agreement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains in force. The Agency's notice comes one week after that country announced its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

At a special meeting in Vienna yesterday, IAEA's Board of Governors reaffirmed the urgency of allowing the Agency to take necessary measures to resolve differences and to ensure verification of compliance with the Agreement. A resolution adopted by the 35-member Board expressed particular concern that North Korea's announcement to withdraw from the NPT came at a time when the IAEA was seeking specific clarifications regarding that country's nuclear material.

The Board regretted the fact that the Pyongyong Government had not yet given a positive response to IAEA's request of 25 February for additional information and access to two additional sites. The Board also asked IAEA Director-General, Hans Blix, to seek a dialogue with North Korea and to report on its response at the next Board meeting on 31 March.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid will hold a solemn meeting in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at Headquarters on Monday, 22 March. The meeting, which will be held at Headquarters in New York, will be preceded by the ceremony of receipt of contributions and pledges by Member States to United Nations assistance programmes for southern Africa.

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The annual observance marks the thirty-third anniversary of the massacre at Sharpeville, South Africa (21 March 1960), of 69 unarmed persons, mostly women and children, demonstrating peacefully against the pass laws.

The international missions deployed in South Africa to monitor the process towards democracy have proposed that the day be celebrated in the future as "the Day of Peace and Reconciliation". The proposal was put forward in a joint statement, signed by the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Community, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It was issued at Headquarters on Tuesday, 16 March.

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Addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva yesterday, its new President, Gerald E. Shannon (Canada), called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its "retrograde" decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He went on to call for new approaches to arms control and disarmament machinery to make it more forward-looking, efficient and results-oriented. The primary role of the Conference on Disarmament, he said, was to negotiate global arms control and disarmament instruments. The actual negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty to eliminate all nuclear testing in all environments for all time remained a priority objective, he said.

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Tchoe Il, said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had used information from a third country and had proposed ad hoc inspections which were not in conformity with the NPT. Those inspections had been imposed on North Korea, he said, adding that all countries had the right to self-determination and "self-defence".

The Conference also heard a message from the Conference on Women in the Peace Process stressing the importance of disarmament, nuclear disarmament in particular, to overcome violence, and the essential contribution that women could make to the peace and disarmament process.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/1355
22 March 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Hugh Cholmondeley of Guyana appointed United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator for Somalia; in Addis Ababa, Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia receives report of fact-finding mission sent to Kismayo; scheduled to conclude tomorrow.

+ United Nations programmes and funds for southern Africa needed more than ever as South Africa begins major transformations, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says.

+ Secretary-General, on International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, says speedy settlement in South Africa is essential to allow for correction of serious socio-economic imbalances resulting from decades of apartheid.

+ Human Rights Committee opens forty-seventh session at Headquarters; to examine reports from Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Guinea, Niger and Iran.

+ Security Council to convene tomorrow on the "no-fly zone" issue; in the meantime, Bosnian peace talks continued this weekend with meetings on evacuation of sick, wounded and vulnerable groups from Srebrenica, among other things.

+ Kuwait regrets Iraq's non-participation in meeting of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Commission Geneva last week; stresses it is fourth consecutive time that Iraq refuses to participate.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Hugh Cholmondeley of Guyana as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator for Somalia. He will work under the overall guidance of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe, according to a United Nations spokesman today.

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Mr. Cholmondeley will succeed Philip Johnston, President of CARE, who has served as Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for the past few months.

In a separate development, the Coordination Committee of the Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia is expected to conclude its plenary session in Addis Ababa tomorrow.

According to the summary notes issued at Headquarters today, the Coordination Committee, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Lansana Kouyate, met earlier today to review the final reports of the Committees on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes (Property Claims) and on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

The Committee also took note of the report of the Cease-Fire and Disarmament Committee as well as the report of the fact-finding mission sent to Kismayo to investigate the recent clashes between warring Somali factions.

In yet another development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today announced that it had pulled out its expatriate staff from Mogadishu North, as of Saturday, 20 March, following an armed robbery at its offices in that part of the Somali capital.

According to a press release issued at Headquarters, the ICRC is still present in Somalia and continues its relief programme in Mogadishu South, as well as other cities throughout Somalia.

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United Nations programmes and funds for southern Africa were needed more than ever as South Africa was about to undertake major transformations, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today.

Speaking at the annual ceremony at Headquarters today for contributions and pledges to the United Nations Assistance Programmes and Funds for southern Africa, he also expressed hope for the continued support of Member States for these programmes, which constituted the humanitarian component of the Organization's efforts for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in South Africa.

The Secretary-General recalled that the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa had for over 25 years supported South African victims of apartheid, both inside and outside the country, and had provided legal assistance and humanitarian relief. Following a change in its mandate two years ago, he said, the Trust Fund was now working through broad-based, impartial organizations in South Africa itself. It was assisting the reintegration of released political prisoners and former exiles; providing legal assistance and support to individuals; and working for the effective implementation of legislation repealing apartheid laws, the Secretary-General said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, at a meeting to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at Headquarters today, said that a speedy settlement in South Africa was essential to allow that country to address the serious socio-economic imbalances resulting from decades of apartheid. The event was being held under the aegis of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

Addressing a solemn meeting held by the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Secretary-General recalled that two weeks ago a Multiparty Planning Conference had been held in South Africa to plan for the resumption of full-scale multiparty constitutional negotiations. In a far-reaching decision, the participants, who represented the broadest spectrum of political parties and organizations ever assembled on South African soil, had committed themselves to the multiparty negotiations scheduled to be held not later than 5 April, he said. That "historic" meeting was a tribute to the resilience, wisdom and determination of the South African leadership -- black and white -- to forge ahead and rise above their differences to build a common future.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the United Nations, which was committed to facilitating the negotiating process, had spared no effort in bringing about peace and reconciliation. Last July, while South Africa was engulfed in endless recrimination, turmoil and politically motivated violence, the Security Council had offered a forum to South African political leaders to state their position. The Council had also urged them to renounce violence and remove the remaining obstacles to resume negotiations, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said.

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The Human Rights Committee, at the opening of its forty-seventh session at Headquarters today, elected its officers for the next two years and adopted the agenda and programme of work for the three-week session. It elected Nisuke Ando, expert from Japan, as Chairman.

During the session, which is scheduled to conclude on 8 April, the Committee will examine reports from the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Guinea, Niger and Iran, which are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee, an 18-member body of experts serving in their personal capacity, monitors compliance of States parties with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which came into force in 1976, ten years after its adoption by the General Assembly. The Covenant guarantees to every one the right to life, liberty and security of person. It prohibits torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, and arbitrary deprivation of life.

The Committee will also examine communications from nationals of States who are parties to the Optional Protocol and who claim to be victims of violations of any of the rights proclaimed in the Covenant. Sixty-six States are parties to the Optional Protocol.

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The Security Council will convene tomorrow afternoon in a formal meeting to consider the issue of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was announced tonight at Headquarters.

In the meantime, the Bosnian peace talks continued over the weekend with meetings chaired by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, and the European Community negotiator, Lord Owen, on the evacuation of sick, wounded and vulnerable groups from Srebrenica. Also discussed were interim arrangements with regard to the nature of the governing mechanism and the status of Sarajevo, as well as the question of detainees and the release of prisoners of war.

Meetings over the weekend were held with the envoy of the Russian Federation, Deputy Foreign Minister Churkin, the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United States Special Envoy, Reginald Bartholomew.

Today, meetings were scheduled with the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Security Council President- on the question of Macedonia, and the five Permanent Members of the Council - China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States - regarding the "no-fly zone".

In Geneva, the talks on the Serb-controlled Krajina in Croatia chaired by the deputy Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference continued over the weekend.

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Kuwait has expressed "strong" regrets over Iraq's non-participation in the meeting of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Commission held in Geneva last week.

The Kuwaiti Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, in a letter to the Security Council President, dated 19 March, noted that this was the fourth consecutive time that Iraq had "refused" to attend the Commission's meetings, which currently pertain to the demarcation of the sea boundary. Iraq's non-participation also reflected the country's "ill-intention" towards complying with Council resolutions, he said.

The letter called on the Council to take "appropriate" measures in ensuring Iraq's compliance with the "letter and substance" of its relevant resolutions.
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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1356
23 March 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council continues consultations on draft text on enforcement of "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) asserts its airplanes and helicopters "have not violated airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina" since last October.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti arrives in Port-au-Prince to meet with representatives of different sectors of society in pursuit of settlement of political conflict in that country.

+ Secretary-General expresses "distress" over killing of humanitarian relief worker in northern Iraq.

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The Security Council continued its consultations today on a draft text concerning the enforcement of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has declared that no airplanes and helicopters of the Air Forces of the Army of Yugoslavia have violated the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina since the "no-fly zone" came into effect in October last year.

The Government, in a statement issued at Headquarters, referred to a Presidential statement adopted by the Security Council on 13 March demanding that the Serbian side provide an immediate explanation of the violations of the "no-fly zone". It said that due to such a "one-sided approach" in evaluating the situation, the "Muslim and Croat side has been forthwith freed of any responsibility".

The statement went on to recall that the highest officials of the Federal Republic had proposed that military observers be deployed at the airfields in its territory in order to dispel "false and unscrupulous accusations of the alleged use of the Yugoslav Air Force in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina". It was therefore "surprising" that the Secretary-General would be asked to ensure that an investigation is conducted about the reported possible use of

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the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to launch air attacks against Bosnia and Herzegovina, the statement said.

In a related development, the Bosnian peace talks continued at Headquarters today under the chairmanship of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. The two Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference met this morning with the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, and the Bosnian Prime Minister. The subject of that meeting was the interim arrangements for a constitution for Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also discussed the status of Sarajevo.

The Co-Chairmen also met this afternoon with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A second meeting was scheduled for tonight at Headquarters.

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Dante Caputo, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti, arrived yesterday in Port-Au-Prince to begin an open-ended visit to that country. He is scheduled to meet with representatives of a broad range of sectors of the Haitian society in the pursuit of a solution to the political crisis in that country.

At the beginning of February, agreement was reached with the parties concerned, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and senior United Nations officials, to send a joint United Nations/OAS International Civilian Mission to Haiti to monitor the human rights situation and initiate investigations of human rights violations. The deployment of observers began in mid-March.

According to the spokesman for the Mission, Mr. Caputo met this morning with the Prime Minister of the de facto government in Haiti, Marc Bazin, and was expected to meet later with General Raoul Cedras and other members of the Haitian Armed Forces.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deplored the killing yesterday of Vincent Tollet of Belgium, an international staff member of the non-governmental organization known as Handicap International, by unidentified assailants in the area of Suleimaniyah in northern Iraq.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General was "distressed" by the incident which once again illustrated the security risks for those engaged in providing humanitarian assistance in areas of "tension". The incident was being investigated by local authorities, he said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1357
24 March 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As Srebrenica comes under attack, Secretary-General calls on Serb forces to halt "unjustifiable attack" on the eastern Bosnian town, mounted despite explicite assurances by Bosnian Serb leaders.

+ Secretary-General expresses concern over amnesty law adopted by El Salvador Legislative Assembly.

+ Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations draws attention to "dramatic" increase in "repressive measures" taken by Israel against Palestinians in occupied territories; Egypt, on behalf of Arab Group, requests formal meeting of Security Council to consider issue.

+ International Atomic Energy Agency welcomes assurances from South Africa regarding its nuclear programme.

+ About $5 million received at pledging conference at Headquarters for United Nations Programmes for southern Africa.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says internally displaced Tajiks require emergency assistance.

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As the eastern Bosnian city of Srebrenica came under attack today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement issued at Headquarters, called on the Serb forces in the area to halt the "unjustifiable attack" which, he said, occurred despite explicite assurances by Bosnian Serb leaders there and in New York. He also urged all concerned to cooperate with the efforts of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to bring about a cease-fire.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, while deploring the further casualties among the residents in the suffering town, said he was particularly anxious about the safety of the United Nations military and civilian personnel in and around Srebrenica. Two Canadian soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were injured today when artillery fire hit the helipad as

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United Nations helicopters were trying to avacuate wounded residents from the town. The two wounded soldiers were successfully evacuated, but further evacuation flights have been rendered impossible by the shelling.

The Commander of UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Philippe Morillion, who is currently in Tuzla, has not been able to return to Srebrenica. Several UNPROFOR military personnel remained at the PTT building in Srebrenica.

Meanwhile, Force Commander Lars-Eric Wahlgren of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has warned that the use of force to ban military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina would have "negative consequences" for UNPROFOR there. The Force Commander's observation comes as the Security Council is considering a draft resolution which would allow United Nations Member States to shoot down military aircraft in violation of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia, instituted by the Council last October.

In a cable to the Secretary-General over the weekend, Mr. Wahlgren said he was particularly concerned that the delivery of humanitarian aid would be seriously jeopardized. He also said he was deeply worried about the safety and security of UNPROFOR's military observers and civilian personnel in locations in the region where they would become vulnerable, for example the air fields.

Commander Wahlgren noted that so far the aerial activity "has had no significant impact on the military situation".

In a related development, Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, met with the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, this morning, to protest the incident at the evacuation of wounded by helicopter. According to Fred Eckhard, spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the other Co-Chairman, would meet with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and with Mate Boban, the Bosnian Croat leader, to continue discussions on the latest draft on the interim Government arrangments.

With regard to the talks in Geneva on Krajina, Mr. Eckhard said both parties seemed ready to accept an extension of the mandate of UNPROFOR, which is due to expire at the end of March.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed concern over the adoption by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador of an amnesty law, saying it would have been better if a broad degree of national consensus had been created in favour of the law.

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General said that although the adoption of the amnesty law was "an internal matter", it was nevertheless related to the report of the Commission on the Truth which "remains an integral part of the Peace Settlement in El Salvador". Under that

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agreement, both parties in El Salvador were bound to ensure that no action was taken that was "inconsistent" with the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth, he said. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he looked forward to know when the El Salvador Government would implement all the recommendations of the Commission so that he could inform the Security Council.

The three-member Commission, which submitted its report on El Salvador last week, named individuals from both sides of the conflict -- the Salvadoran Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) -- whom it found responsible for the worst and most widespread violations of human rights between 1980 and July 1991. The armed conflict ended formally in mid-December of last year.

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The Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations , Nasser Al-Kidwa, has asked for a formal meeting of the Security Council to consider the "dramatic" increase in "repressive measures and lethal actions" taken by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 22 March, Mr. Al-Kidwa called for the adoption of "concrete" measures which would provide protection for the Palestinian people, as already demanded by the Council under resolution 681 of 1990. Since last December, some 50 Palestinians, including 17 children, had been killed by Israeli troops or settlers in the Gaza Strip. During the same period, he wrote, nearly 2,000 Palestinian civilians, including over 400 children, were wounded by the troops.

Mr. Al-Kidwa pointed out that the total number of fatalities for the past four months was much higher than that recorded during the first four months of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory. Such Israeli policies and practices, he said, drastically undermined the efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Nabil Elaraby, on behalf of the Arab Group, has formally asked for a Council meeting concerning the the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. The request was put forward in a letter to the Security Council President, dated 22 March.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General, following his meetings with the Israeli Prime Minster Yiezhak Rabin last week, has appointed Benon Sevan, Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs, to deal with the question of persons missing in action (MIAs) and prisoners from the Middle East area, including Israeli nationals.
S/25458, S/25460

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has welcomed the public disclosure of the military part of South Africa's nuclear programme and also its assurances that the relevant facilities, equipment and materials had been destroyed or converted for peaceful use.

According to a press release issued in Vienna today, President F.W. de Klerk told a joint session of the South African Parliament today that his country had worked in the past on a limited number of military nuclear devices, with six of the seven devices having been completed. South Africa had terminated that programme prior to its accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in July, 1991, and to the subsequent application of IAEA safeguards inspections there.

The IAEA also welcomed the invitation extended to it by South Africa to send inspectors to sites involved in the "former" programme and to review the historical records. It said it would examine the contents and implications of the statements made by the South African President in the context of its continuing safeguards work in that country, where it has so far conducted over 115 inspections.

* * *

Twenty-four Governments have contributed more than $5 million during a pledging conference held at Headquarters this week in order to assist United Nations Programmes for southern Africa.

The contributions and pledges were received by the Secretary-General during a ceremony which preceeded the observance of the International Day, held annually in memory of the death of peaceful demonstrators who were killed in 1960 in Sharpville, South Africa, protesting against the "pass laws".

* * *

About 8,000 internally displaced Tajiks are in need of emergency assistance after having been forced to return to their war-ravaged province in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced today.

According to a press release issued at Headquarters, the Agency is concentrating on the basic survival of the Tajiks, providing the refugees with the necessary shelter and food in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The returnees are among an estimated 100,000 Tajiks who have fled their villages during the civil war, seeking asylum in the capital city of Dushanbe. They had been given assurances that conditions were right for their return and that food and shelter were awaiting them. But upon their arrival they were prevented from going to their home villages by the local population.

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According to the UNHCR, the international community's response to the United Nations appeal for assistance to Tajikistan has been "lukewarm". So far, the Agency has received pledges of $1.3 million of the $7.9 million it needs until May to provide emergency assistance to the least developed of the former Soviet Republics.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1358
25 March 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Bosnian Muslims sign peace documents on map and interim constitutional arrangement for Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian Serbs decide not to sign; Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference say it is now up to Security Council to decide further steps in peace negotiations.

+ Secretary-General travels to Washington D.C. to meet with United States Secretary of State; will also meet with Secretary-General of Organization of American States to discuss situation in Haiti.

+ Observers sent to Haiti under joint United Nations/OAS Mission begin monitoring human rights situation in different areas; Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti continues meetings with political leaders.

+ Iraq asks Security Council to lay down guidelines for coordination of countries' requests for compensation to ensure that no more than 30 per cent is deducted from its oil exports.

+ Kazakhstan will organize conference on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia from 29 to 30 March in Alma Ata.

+ Netherlands and Australia contribute total of $12 million for FAO field programme in Asia.

+ Committee on Exercise of Inalienable Rights of Palestinian People appeals to Security Council for measures providing "appropriate" protection to Palestinian people.

+ Fifth Committee authorizes additional funding of $200,000 to cover requirements of United Nations Institute for Training and Research through June.

• • •

"A major step forward" in the Bosnian peace talks was taken today, according to Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, when the Bosnian Muslims agreed to sign two documents of the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely the map dividing the Republic into ten semi-autonomous provinces and the interim arrangements.

For information media—not an official record

The announcement was made this afternoon by the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia at a press conference at Headquarters, following their meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Vance and Lord Owen regretted that the Bosnian Serbs, led by Radovan Karadzic, had not signed, but expressed the hope that enough pressure would now be put on the Serbs to do so in the near future.

Lord Owen, the European Community Negotiator, said he and Cyrus Vance would present their recommendations to the Secretary-General who would then submit a report to the Security Council. It was now up to the Council to decide what further steps would be taken in the peace negotiations.

The peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina is made up of four separate documents. Two of them, on the constitutional principles and the military agreement, have been signed by all three parties. The two remaining documents, on the map and the interim arrangement, have been signed by the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian Muslims.

At a press conference this afternoon, President Izetbegovic said his delegation had signed the documents on the condition that the signatures would become "nul and void", if "the agressor" did not sign the same documents within a reasonable time frame. He added that if the peace accords remained without results, the Bosnian Presidency and its Government would take all necessary measures to defend its people and expect the Security Council to lift the arms embargo on the Republic.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this afternoon left New York for Washington D.C. to meet with the United States Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, according to a United Nations spokesman today.

The Secretary-General was also scheduled to meet with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Baena Soares, to discuss the situation in Haiti. Later in the evening, Mr. Boutros-Ghali would address guests on "Maintaining International Peace and Security -- the United Nations as a Forum and Focal Point" at a dinner hosted by the Association of American Publishers.

* * *

Some 45 of the 103 human rights observers currently deployed under the joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) Mission to initiate investigations of human rights violations in Haiti, were already operational in many areas of the country, according to the spokesman for the Mission today. In the coming weeks, more observers were expected to join the groups already in place.

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The observers had started collecting files on the human rights violations in Haiti for further review and follow-up, which would include contacts and visits to local authorities, prisons, hospitals and morgues, the spokesman said.

Yesterday, Dante Caputo, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti, held a series of meetings with leaders of the political parties in Haiti in pursuit of a solution to the political conflict in that country. Mr. Caputo also met for the second time with General Raoul Cedras and other members of the Haitian Armed Forces.

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Iraq has lodged a protest over "certain companies and individuals" who, it says, have taken cases to their national courts claiming compensation for damage suffered as a result of the Persian Gulf war, instead of seeking recourse to the United Nations Compensation Fund.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Said Al-Sahaf said those cases were aiming at Iraq's assets and reserves abroad, which would eventually result in negative repercussions on Iraq economy.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister asked that the Security Council lay down guidelines to coordinate international and local requests for compensation in order to make sure that no more than 30 per cent was deducted from Iraq's oil export to pay for compensation, as determined under resolution 705 (1991).

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Kazakhstan will organize a conference on interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia from 29 to 30 March in Alma Ata.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Akmaral K. Arystanbekova, said representatives of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) are expected to attend, as well as experts of various Asian countries. Kazakhstan had proposed the establishment of a collective-security system in Asia similar to the CSCE, because it believes that the States of the continent have an equal interest in durable and lasting peace and stability, the letter said.

* * *

The Netherlands will contribute about $9 million to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) field programme in Asia, and Australia is expected to pledge an additional $3 million, the FAO announced today in Rome.

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The programme aims at boosting rice production while reducing the use of pesticides in Asia. The contributions made by Netherlands and Australia will be used mainly for educating trainers in the fields, relying mostly on existing local facilities.

* * *

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has appealed to the Security Council to take necessary measures which would provide "appropriate" protection to the Palestinian people, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention and the relevant Council resolutions.

Committee Chairman Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, said that since the deportation of over 400 Palestinians by Israel last December, there had been a rise in clashes between Israeli soldiers and the Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Describing the situation as "grave" due to the intensification of "repressive" measures by Israel, he said that since mid-December about 50 Palestinians had been shot and killed in street disturbances -- a death rate not seen in several years. Most of the casualties, at least 15 deaths in the month of March, had been in the Gaza Strip and a large proportion of the victims were children under the age of 16, he added.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has decided that the Secretary-General should be given a 'commitment' authority for an additional funding of $200,000 to cover the requirements of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) until June.

Continuing its review of the 1992-1993 programme budget at Headquarters today, the Committee also decided that the Institute's actual requirements be reported in the context of the 1992-1993 annual performance report. The Committee was acting on the programme budget implications of a resolution by which the Assembly decided to transfer UNITAR's headquarters to Geneva.

The Committee decided that the funding of UNITAR's administrative budget and training programme be covered from voluntary contributions and other extra-budgetary means. Furthermore, it decided that the UNITAR building in New York be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for cancellation of the Institute's debt and coverage of its 1992 financial obligations.

The Committee also decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve a commitment authority of $150,000 in order to provide for the administrative support of the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1359
26 March 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes deployment of 30,000-man strong force in Somalia for an initial period through 31 October, mandated to use force, if necessary, to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the country; emphasizes "crucial importance" of disarmament; in Addis Ababa, agreement is reached with Somali National alliance to create transitional leadership council in Somalia.

+ Security Council unanimously demands that all parties in Liberia fully cooperate with Secretary-General and ECOWAS to ensure implementation of Yamassoukro IV Accords; will consider "appropriate measures" in support of ECOWAS if "any party is unwilling to cooperate"; request Secretary-General to consider possibility of convening meeting of President of Interim Government and warring factions.

+ The Council also welcomes tonight the acceptance by the leaders of Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus to attend a joint meeting at Headquarters on 30 March to discuss the resumption of "substantive direct negotiations"; reaffirms that present status quo "is not acceptable".

+ France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States warn Iraq that, as it remains in violation of Security Council resolutions, any provocative actions will receive firm response.

+ Secretary-General returns from Washington, D.C. where he met yesterday with United States Secretary of State on Bosnian peace negotiations, Haiti, Somalia, among other things.

+ Arrival of joint United Nations/OAS Mission in Haiti has already led to "some reduction in incidence of human rights violations" and to beginning political activity, according to report by Secretary-General.

+ United Nations confirms Serb threat to shoot down flights carrying humanitarian supplies to Bosnia and Herzegovina, if German planes take part in operation.

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For information media—not an official record

+ UNTAC strongly condemns killing of eight ethnic Vietnamese boat people in Kompong Chhnang Province by National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

+ Secretary-General speaks about United Nations as forum and focal point for maintaining international peace and security, at meeting of American Publishers Association, Washington, D.C.

+ First United Nations regional preparatory meeting for International Year of Family, scheduled for 1994, to begin in Tunis on Monday, 29 March.

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The Security Council this afternoon authorized the deployment of 30,000-man strong United Nations operation in Somalia (ONISOM II) for an initial period through 31 October, with a mandate, for the first time ever, to use force, if necessary, to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the country. The Council also emphasized the "crucial importance of disarmament" and the urgent need to build on the efforts of the Unifed Task Force (UNITAF).

Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council adopted unanimously a three-part resolution 813 (1993), under which it demanded that all Somali parties, including movements and factions, comply fully with the agreements concluded at the recent Reconciliation Meeting in Addis Ababa, especially the agreement on the cease-fire and disarmament. It also demanded that all Somali parties take measures to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel and other relief staff.

Under the resolution, the Council asked the Secretary-General to support "from within Somalia" the implementation of the arms embargo established by under resolution 733 (1992), using the ONUSOM II forces and to report to the Council "with any recommendations regarding more effective measures if necessary". The new operation would also assist in the repatriation of refugees and the assisted resettlement of displaced persons, with particular attention to areas where instability continues to threaten peace and stability.

While emphasizing the urgent need to build on the efforts of the Unified Task Force, the Council also asked the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative, to direct the Force Commander of ONUSOM II to assume responsibility for the maintenance of a secure environement throughout Somalia and to organize a "prompt, smooth, and phased transition" from the Task Force to ONUSOM II no later than 1 May.

Under another provision of the resolution, the Council asked the Secretary-General to maintain the fund for the maintenance of ONUSOM II, following the departure of the Task Force, and for the establishment of Somali police, and called on Member States to make contributions to this fund.

According to the Secretary-General's proposal, the estimated cost of the new operation would by $855 million for the first six months, which includes

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some $190 million for start-up costs. An unemcumbered balance of $70 million left from the previous United Nations operation in Somalia will be used to partially fund start-up requirements for the new operation. The cost would be considered as an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States of the United Nations.

In a related development, the Somali National Alliance (SNA) today agreed to sign an agreement, reached between leaders of the twelve Somali factions, which calls for the creation of a transitional leadership council in Somalia.

According to a statement issued by the ONUSOM spokesman in Mogadishu, the agreement would provide for a transitional executive authority to replace the central transition administration. Also, the autonomous regional and district councils would replace the regional and district councils, he said.

The Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia is expected to end tomorrow.

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In the first of two formal meetings this afternoon, the Security Council demanded that all parties in Liberia fully cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with a view to ensuring the full and prompt implementation of the Yamassoukro IV Accords of 1991.

The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 812 (1993), by which it also declared its readiness to consider appropriate measures in support of ECOWAS "if any party is unwilling to cooperate in implementation of the provisions of the Yamassoukro IV Accords, in particular the encampment and disarmament provisions".

The Council also called upon all States to abide by and comply with the general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia, imposed by resolution 788 (1992), under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

It further asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with ECOWAS, to consider the possibility of convening a meeting of the President of the Interim Government of National Unity in Liberia and the warring factions, to restate their commitment to the implementation of the Yamassoukro IV Accord "within an agreed timetable".

In his report to the Council, dated 12 March, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations was ready "to extend whatever assistance" to end the conflict in Liberia. He also pointed out that Liberia represented a good exemple of systematic cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization.

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His Special Representative for Liberia, Trevor Gordon-Sommers, has held a number of meetings and talks with different political and military factions in that country.

* * *

In a Presidential Statement tonight, the members of the Security Council welcomed the acceptance by the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus of the Secretary General's invitation to attend a joint meeting on 30 March to discuss "the timing, modalities, and preparation for the resumption of substantive direct negotiations as mandated by the Security Council".

The Council also reaffirmed its position that "the present status quo was not acceptable" and that a mutually acceptable overall framework agreement "should be achieved without delay", on the basis of the Set of Ideas which have been endorsed by the Security Council.

It further called on the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to fully cooperate with the Secretary-General, and reaffirmed its determination to lend its active support to the Secretary-General's effort.

* * *

Iraq has been advised that it remains in violation of the full range of Security Council resolutions and has been warned that any provocative actions would receive a firm response from the coalition forces in the Persian Gulf war.

The warning was conveyed today to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon, by four Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. According to a statement issued following a meeting this afternoon with the Iraqi Ambassador, the four said they were committed to "the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq" and to "easing the suffering of the civilian population" through the implementation of resolution 706 and 712. They emphasized that it was "in Iraq's own interest to comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions" and stressed their determination to ensure such compliance.

Iraq's compliance with the Security Council's resolutions is being reviewed every 60 days.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali returned from Washington, D.C. today, where he yesterday met with United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher for a discussion of the Bosnian peace negotiations and yesterday's agreement with the Bosnian Government on the map and interim arrangements for the Republic. Discussions were also held on the situation in Macedonia, El Salvador, Western Sahara, Haiti and Somalia.

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Earlier, the Secretary-General, accompanied by his Senior Political Adviser, Alvaro de Soto, met with Baena Soares, the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), to discuss the situation in Haiti and cooperation between the United Nations and the OAS.

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The recent arrival of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti had "already led to some reduction in the incidence of human rights violations and to a climate in which political activity was beginning to increase or to be planned", according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Mission, which is a joint effort by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), is investigating and reporting human rights violations throughout Haiti.

In a report to the General Assembly on the human rights situation in that country, dated 24 March, the Secretary-General said the deployment of observers in Haiti could indeed have an inhibiting effect on political repression. However, he warned, the Mission could expect the emergence of serious problems if many months went by before a legitimate government enjoying public confidence returned to power. He therefore recommended that a comprehensive review of the operational plan for the Mission take place no later than September 1993.
A/47/908

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It was confirmed today at Headquarters that Serb forces had threatened to shoot down United Nations flights carrying humanitarian supplies to Bosnia and Herzegovina, if German planes took part in the operation.

According to a United Nations spokesman, representatives of Germany, the United States, France, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were currently meeting in Germany to determine further action.

* * *

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) today condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the killing of eight ethnic Vietnamese boat people in the Kompong Chhnang Province by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

According to a statement issued by the spokesman for UNTAC, the attack, which involved a group of 10 to 20 assailants, took place on Wednesday, 24 March, in the morning. The victims were shot dead while fishing from three boats.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, addressing a dinner meeting hosted by the American Publishers Association in Washington, D.C. yesterday, said the concepts of preventive diplomacy, expanded peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building must be understood and accepted if the United Nations peace-keeping is to deal successfully with changing realities.

He emphasized that the concept of preventive diplomacy required personal contacts, good offices and fact-finding missions, and early-warning systems. In that context, he said, the decision to establish a United Nations Protective Force in the former Republic of Macedonia was taken out of concern to prevent a wider Balkan war.

On the issue of expanded peace-keeping, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the protection of humanitarian relief supplies was a new necessity of peace-keeping in a growing number of conflicts around the world. That need was most "dramatically" evident in Somalia in recent months. In the former Yugoslavia, he said, the United Nations forces were authorized to secure the Sarajevo airport and related lines of communication so that vital humanitarian assistance could be flown to the besieged population.

The concept of post-conflict peace-building, he noted, involved sustained efforts to identify and support structures to consolidate peace and create greater trust and well-being among peoples. Without such efforts, no peace agreement was likely to endure for long, he added.

* * *

The first United Nations regional preparatory meeting for the International Year of the Family, scheduled for 1994, will be held in Tunis from 29 March to 2 April.

Participants from 64 States in Africa and Western Asia, as well as observers from organizations and other States, will review the situation of families in those regions and their place in the respective national social agenda. They also will survey national and international preparations for the Year and adopt recommendations for the observances of, and follow-up to, the Year.

The meeting's recommendations, together with those adopted at three other regional preparatory meetings to be held this year - in Valetta, for Europe and North America, in Beijing, for Asia and the Pacific, and in Cartagena, for Latin America and the Caribbean - will be submitted to the regional commissions, which are monitoring preparations for the Year in their respective areas.

The General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family in a resolution adopted in 1989, with the view to creating a greater awareness of the family as the "natural and fundamental unit of society".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1360
29 March 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Chairmen's peace plan is "only mechanism available for re-establishment of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina", according to report by Secretary-General; urges Security Council to approve the whole peace package and to call upon Bosnian Serbs to sign the remaining two parts.

+ Secretary-General proposes extension of UNPROFOR mandate for further interim period of three months; says "more time" is needed before negotiations can be brought to "meaningful conclusion"; cost estimate for new period is $336 million.

+ Signing of Agreement on national reconciliation by Somali participants at conference in Addis Ababa welcomed by Secretary-General.

+ Security Council concludes, following consultations today, that "there was no agreement" to lift sanctions regime imposed on Iraq under resolution 687 (1991).

+ Bangladesh UNTAC peace-keeper dies of wounds received at attack two days ago in Angkor Chum, north-west of Siem Reap.

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The peace package put forward by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, provided the "only mechanism available for the re-establishment of peace, justice and respect for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina", according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 26 March, on the progress of the peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Boutros-Ghali therefore strongly urged the Security Council to approve the whole peace package and to call upon the Bosnian Serbs to sign the remaining two parts "so that attention may be concentrated henceforth on the implementation of the plan".

The Secretary-General wrote that after seven months of intensive negotiations only one side -- the Bosnian Serbs -- now "lags behind" in

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For information media--not an official record

signature of two of the four documents making up the overall package, namely the provincial map and the agreement on interim arrangements.

The Secretary-General also recommended the early establishment of an International Human Rights Monitoring Mission that all three sides have already accepted, and a Boundary Commission, as recommended by the Co-Chairmen.

The report finally recommended that any enforcement of the no-fly zone, tightening of sanctions, or the placing of United Nations military observers around the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), should now be accompanied by the Security Council's "unqualified" endorsement of the peace package.

The overall peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, worked out during the past seven months of negotiations, is contained in four separate documents. Two of them -- the constitutional principles and the military agreement -- have been signed by all three parties. The two remaining parts, pertaining to the map and the interimn arrangement, have been signed by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed to extend the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) for a further interim period of three months, until the end of June. The Security Council had first set a 31 March deadline for the Croatian Government and the Serb populations living in Croatia to reach an agreement which would serve as basis for recommendations on the Force's future mandate.

However, in a his report, dated 25 March, the Secretary-General writes that "more time will be needed" to bring the negotiations on this issue to a meaningful conclusion and warns that any termination of UNPROFOR's presence in Croatia would probably lead to "an outbreak of renewed hostilities".

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia have held several rounds of talks both in Geneva and in New York with representatives of the two parties concerning the situation in the United Nations Protected Areas and the Serb-controlled "pink zones". While some progress has been made in those talks, the Secretary-General says, "fundamental differences remain between the two sides".

The total cost of maintaining UNPROFOR for the period from 1 April to 30 June, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate, would be $336 million, according to the Secretary-General's recommendations. Of that amount, some $195 million would be used for UNPROFOR's deployment in Macedonia and the humanitarian operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Document S/25470, add 1.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the signing of the agreement on national reconciliation by the leaders of the 15 Somali political movements at the Conference in Addis Ababa on Saturday, 27 March, and has urged the Somali leaders to begin work immediately on the practical arrangements for the implementation of the Agreement.

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, he called the agreement "an important achievement of the Somali people" and noted that it represented the first positive step following the Security Council's decision on Friday to deploy a 28,000-member United Nations peace-keeping force in Somalia. The Agreement provided "an auspicious beginning for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II)" as it prepared to assume its expanded responsibilities sometime after 1 May.

Under the Agreement, the Somali participants have committed themselves to put an end to armed conflict and to reconcile their differences through peaceful means. They also pledged to comply fully with the cease-fire agreement that was signed in Addis Ababa last January, including the handing over of all weapons and ammunition to the Unified Task Force and UNOSOM II.

The Secretary-General welcomed the fact that the Agreement ensures the presence of at least 18 women on the Transitional National Council, which constituted an important breakthrough for Somali women who played a very constructive role at the Conference, the statement said.

According to a United Nations spokesman today, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Lansana Kouyate, had meet with Somali intellectuals who had attended the Addis Ababa meeting. They represented over 850 Somali intellectuals from all over the world, many of whom were preparing to return to their country and participate in the rebuilding of Somalia. Mr. Kouyate also chaired a meeting of the political movements to discuss follow-up action to the Agreement.

The Committee on the Cease-fire and Disarmament was scheduled to resume its meetings tomorrow, 30 March, at UNOSOM II Headquarters in Mogadishu, the spokesman said.

* * *

The Security Council today concluded that "there was no agreement" among Council members to lift the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq under the so-called cease-fire resolution 687 (1991).

The Council's decision comes after four of the five Permanent Representatives to the United Nations - namely France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States - on Friday, 26 March, warned the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon, that any provocative actions from Iraq would "receive a firm response" from the coalition.

(more)

Speaking to correspondents today, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, stated that "among Iraq's many unfulfilled obligations" were that they had not allowed any long-term monitoring by United Nations agencies of their weapons programmes. In addition, she said, they had not ceased the massive repression of their civilian population and had not accepted the United Nations demarcated boundary between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Security Council reviews Iraq's compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions every 60 days.

* * *

A Bangladesh soldier serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has died of wounds received at an attack two days ago in Angkor Chum, north-west of Siem Reap.

According to the spokesman for UNTAC, the identity of the approximately 80 attackers still remained unknown, but it was alleged that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) had the responsibility of the raid for which mortar and small arms fire had been used. He said UNTAC would contact their representatives in order to conduct an independent inquiry.

The spokesman said that there were currently 15,000 UNTAC peace-keepers spread out on a large territory in order to guarantee peaceful elections. Despite the attack, there would be no forces added in Siem Reap, he stated.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1361
30 March 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of UNPROFOR for additional three-months interim period until 30 June; decides to reconsider in one month, and at any time Secretary-General so requests, UNPROFOR's future mandate in light of negotiations and situation on ground.

+ Leaders of two communities in Cyprus agree to resume joint negotiations on 24 May at United Nations Headquarters.

+ Investigation into reported mistreatment of United Nations relief worker in southern Sudan ordered by Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General concerned over killing of Bangladesh staff member serving with UNTAC; two ethnic Vietnamese killed and 14 injured in grenade attack in Phnom Penh.

+ UNHCR closes last of seven Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand.

+ World Court in Hague to hold hearings on 1 April on Bosnian request for provisional measures in case of Bosnia and Herzegovina versus Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) concerning war crimes.

+ Radio operator serving with United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission dies in car accident in Kuwait.

* * *

The Security Council today voted unanimously to extend the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) for a further interim period of three months until 30 June.

The Council, by adopting resolution 815 (1993), decided to reconsider UNPROFOR's mandate within one month, or at any time at the request of the Secretary-General, in the light of developments in the Yugoslav talks and the situation on the ground. The Council acted under the enforcement provisions of the the United Nations Charter determined to ensure the security of UNPROFOR and its freedom of movement.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Expressing deep concern by the continuing cease-fire violations by the Yugoslav parties and others concerned, the Council determined that the situation continued to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region. The Council also expressed support for the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Yugoslavia in their efforts to help to determine the future status of the Yugoslav territories. It demanded full respect for international humanitarian law, and in particular the Geneva Conventions, in the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report urgently to it on how the United Nations Peace Plan for Croatia could be effectively put into effect.

The Secretary-General has stated that the total costs of maintaining UNPROFOR for the three-months period would be $336 million. The General Assembly will take action on the proposed budget for UNPROFOR at a later date.

In a separate development, Croatia has contended that Serbs in both Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina should not be given more than one additional month to comply with the United Nations peace plan and the Security Council resolutions. Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, told correspondents today that if the Serbian side refuses to accept the United Nations peace plan, the Security Council should "consider more serious action to stop and erode the aggression". That could be done by lifting the arms embargo and endorsing other forceful measures to protect the territorial integrity of its Member States, he said.

* * *

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus have agreed to resume the joint negotiations on 24 May at United Nations Headquarters. The announcement was made following joint meetings today at Headquarters with Secretary-General Boutro Boutros-Ghali, at which the timing, modalities and preparations for the resumption of substantive direct talks was discussed.

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General said the talks in New York would be preceded by preparatory meetings in Nicosia with the leaders of the two communities in order to clarify their concerns relating to the draft overall framework agreement contained in the Set of Ideas with a view to creating a new climate of confidence before May.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali welcomed the declared intentions of the two leaders to meet privately from time to time and to hold meetings with the heads of the political parties from both sides. He said he believed that such encounters could overcome long standing mutual distrust and could contribute to the success of both the preparatory process and the joint negotiations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed concern over the killing last night of a UNTAC civilian staff member serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), according to a United

Nations spokesman today. The staff member, who was a national of Bangladesh, was killed "under circumstances that are still being investigated", probably by members of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General was extremely concerned about the incident and was "anxious that the parties responsible for it stop this immediately". He also reported that there had been four grenade attacks in Phnom Penh resulting in two deaths and 14 injured, mostly of ethnic Vietnamese.

* * *

A United Nations relief worker of the World Food Programme (WFP) has been taken prisoner and subjected to severely harsh treatment by forces of Colonel John Garang in Kongor, southern Sudan, according to reports received by the United Nations today. The staff member, Jean-François Darq, who was taken prisoner during a fight between SPLA factions on Saturday, 27 March, has been evacuated from Kongor to Nairobi.

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General said he was concerned by the report and had ordered the responsible United Nations offices to investigate the incident and report to him in full. He reaffirmed his commitment to the security of field staff and said he was prepared to take appropriate action once the facts were known.

* * *

Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), today officially closed the last of seven camps for Cambodian refugees in Thailand, according to a press release issued by the agency. The camp once held more than 200,000 refugees and was considered to be the largest Cambodian community outside the capital Phnom Penh. It has now been one year since the UNHCR began a voluntary repatriation programme for some 375,000 Cambodians.

At ceremonies at the Thai border, Mrs. Ogata thanked the Thai Government for having provided sanctuary to more than 700,000 Cambodians over the past 18 years of war and exile and said that UNHCR would accompany the returnees on their way home. "We will be there to help you in the first steps of your new life in Cambodia", she said, referring to quick impact projects designed to ease the return of the refugees to their villages.

The projects are being carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other non-governmental agencies in order to support the resettlement of the Cambodians, 339,000 of whom have already returned to their country.

The repatriation operation is expected to be completed by mid-April. It is, along with the registration of 4.6 million voters for the elections on 23 May, regarded as a main success in the fulfilment of the 1991 Paris peace agreements that ended 12 years of war in Cambodia.

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The International Court of Justice in The Hague will begin hearings on 1 April on a request by Bosnia and Herzegovina for provisional measures in the case of Bosnia versus Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) concerning the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

According to a communiqué issued in The Hague today, Bosnia had asked the Court to communicate that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), together with its agents and surrogates in Bosnia and elsewhere, "must immediately cease and desist from all acts of genocide and genocidal acts against the people of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Bosnia has also asked that under the current circumstances, any State "has the right to come to the immediate defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina" by providing weapons, military equipment and supplies, and armed forces.

* * *

A radio operator serving with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Mission (UNIKOM) in Kuwait has been killed in a tragic car accident in Kuwait. Fso Kebede of Ethiopia was travelling from Kuwait City to UNIKOM Headquarters in Umm Qasr on 15 March when he had the accident, which was the first since the Mission began in May 1991.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1362
31 March 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council imposes two-week deadline for full compliance with ban on flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina; authorizes Member States "to take all necessary measures" to enforce ban in Bosnian airspace; vote is 14 in favour, with China abstaining.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on safety and security of United Nations forces and personnel, says attacks and other acts of violence against such personnel are "wholly unacceptable"; demands that all possible steps be taken to ensure their safety and security.

+ Secretary-General sends Personal Envoy to Indonesia and East Timor to report on overall human rights situation in East Timor.

+ United Nations Angola Verification Mission begins operation to help civilian refugees fleeing Huambo to Angola's west coast, where food is being provided by United Nations agencies.

+ Large numbers of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia are reportedly migrating to Vietnam following massacres earlier this month, according to United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

+ Food and Agriculture Organization says world cereal production improves modestly, but acute regional food shortages continue.

* * *

The Security Council today imposed a two-week deadline for full compliance with the ban on flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina and authorized Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, "to take all necessary measures" in the Bosnian airspace to enforce the ban on flights.

Acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Council adopted resolution 816 (1993) by a vote of 14 in favour, none against and one abstention (China). The Council also decided to extend the already existing ban to cover flights by all fixed-wing and rotary-wing

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aircraft, except for flights authorized by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Under other provisions of the text, the Council asked Member States concerned, the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR to coordinate closely the measures they are taking to ensure the ban and to report the starting date to the Council through the Secretary-General.

The Council further decided that, if all three Bosnian parties should accept the settlement plan by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia before the deadline, the measure set forth in this resolution would be included in the measures for implementing that settlement.

The Council asked the Member States concerned to inform the Secretary-General immediately of any actions they take to enforce the ban on flights. It also asked the Secretary-General to report regularly on the matter.

In explanation of vote, the representative of China expressed his opposition to the use of force to ensure the ban on flights over Bosnian airspace because it would endanger the UNPROFOR personnel on the ground.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon urged States and other parties to various conflicts to take all possible steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations forces and personnel and demanded that States act "promptly and effectively" to deter, prosecute and punish all those responsible for attacks and other acts of violence against such personnel.

The call was contained in a Presidential Statement, read out by Council President Terence O'Brien (New Zealand), following the Council's examination of the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" of last June, in which he proposed a number of measures to enhance the United Nations effectiveness with regard to peace and security.

The statement said the Council considered that attacks and other acts of violence, whether actual or threatened, including obstruction or detention of persons, against United Nations forces and personnel were "wholly unacceptable". Such acts might require the Council to take further measures to ensure the safety and security of such forces and personnel.

The Council commended the courage and commitment of those who accept considerable personal risks in order to carry out the mandates of the United Nations as it had found it increasingly necessary to deploy peace-keeping forces and personnel in situations of real danger.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report as soon as possible on the existing arrangements for the protection of United Nations forces and

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personnel. It also asked him to make such recommendations "as he considers appropriate" for enhancing the safety and security of United Nations forces and personnel.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send Amos Wako, Attorney-General of Kenya and an international authority on human rights, as his Personal Envoy to Indonesia and East Timor. The visit, which will begin on Friday, 2 April, is a follow-up to a similar visit that he undertook in February of last year.

During his one-week mission, Mr. Wako will examine whether recommendations he made following his first visit have been implemented. He will then report to the Secretary-General on his impression of the overall human rights situation in East Timor. Mr. Wako will be accompanied by two officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

* * *

In cooperation with the Government of Angola, the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) today began an operation to help civilian refugees who have fled Huambo in central Angola on foot to the calmer Caimbambo, 250 kilometers east of Huambo.

According to a communiqué issued at Headquarters, the refugees were being taken by helicopter to Benguela and Lobito where humanitarian aid was being provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). A total of 3,000 to 4,000 people, mostly women and children, sick or injured, needed to be transported by UNAVEM II helicopers.

* * *

Large numbers of ethnic Vietnamese are reportedly moving south from Tonle Sap Lake towards Vietnam, according to a report by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) today. Following massacres in the Kompong Chhnang Province, where some 40 Vietnamese boat people were killed earlier this month, as many as 7,000 Vietnamese were seen heading towards the Vietnamese border by boat. That did not include the families who had been moving by land.

According to the spokesman of UNTAC, Eric Falt, UNTAC has been watching the movement of population with considerable concern and has urged the existing administrative structures to take every necessary step to maintain law and order. He said many of the ethnic Vietnamese people had been living in Cambodia for generations and had probably already been registred to vote.

* * *

Despite a modest improvement in world cereal production, acute regional food shortages are continuing and large sections of the world's population

still lack access to food, reports the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In an opening statement to a meeting of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, which ends tomorrow, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said there was "a deep sense of frustration about the present state of world food security". In an increasing number of African countries, he said, civil strife had consequently led to large population movements, followed by the disruption of agricultural activities and food shortages. The food situation was considered grave in Somalia, Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, with shortages imminent in Togo, Rwanda and Zaire. Food shortages were also acute in Iraq and Afghanistan, where tight supply had been aggravated by the large influx of refugees.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1363
1 April 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Cyrus Vance, Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslav talks, announces his stepping down as Co-Chairman of International Conference.

+ Examination of more than one million claims for compensation as result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to begin in September; nine new Commissioners appointed to recommend awards on claims.

+ Secretary-General welcomes participation of Germany in airdrop operation over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not in compliance with its obligations under Safeguards Agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency, according to IAEA's Board of Governors.

+ Special Representative to Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, meet today in Phnom Penh to discuss repatriation and reintegration of Cambodian returnees, as new incidents are reported.

* * *

Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy and Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, announced today that he is stepping down as Co-Chairman of the Conference.

He told correspondents this afternoon that his time as Co-Chairman had been "long and rigorous" and that the mission to mediate a negotiated settlement between the three Yugoslav parties had been "the most difficult task" he ever performed.

According to a United Nations spokesman, it is now incumbent upon the Secretary-General to make an announcement for Mr. Vance's replacement.

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For information media--not an official record

Nine new Commissioners have been appointed to recommend awards on the claims for compensation filed by more than one million foreign workers and others who had to leave Kuwait and Iraq because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Claims filed by individuals, whose family members had been killed, or who suffered serious injuries or losses up to $100,000, will also be examined and will undergo expeditious processing, says the Compensation Commission.

According to a communiqué issued today at Headquarters, the nine jurists and experts from Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Finland, Ghana, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Switzerland have been appointed by the Governing Council of the Compensation Commission, set up by the Security Council after the end of the Gulf war to process compensation claims. They will begin their work next September and are expected to issue their first recommendations before the end of this year.

Other panels of Commissioners will be appointed shortly to review claims for losses of individuals over $100,000 and the claims of corporations and Governments. The payment for compensation is to come out of the Fund established by the Security Council and financed on the basis of 30 per cent of Iraq's oil sale. Because of the embargo imposed on Iraq since the invasion and Iraq's refusal to export up to $1.6 billion worth of oil, as allowed by the Security Council, the Fund has so far received only frozen assets deposited abroad. It is still confronting difficulties because of the delay in getting the $21 million put at its disposal last December out of Iraqi frozen funds, the communiqué said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the par cipation of Germany in the airdrop operation over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Joe Sills, the Secretary-General's Spokeman, conveyed to correspondents today that Mr. Boutros-Ghali was welcoming Germany's relief effort, based on the principles that the distribution of humanitarian aid "is a non-political activity".

* * *

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not in compliance with its obligations under the Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which entered into force on 10 April 1992, according to the IAEA's Boards of Governors.

In a resolution adopted in Vienna today, the IAEA said it had not been able to verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material required to be safeguarded under the terms of the Agreement to nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices. The resolution was adopted at the conclusion of the IAEA's reviewing process of developments since its previous meeting on 25 February concerning inspections in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Under the resolution, Board members also called upon North Korea to "remedy forthwith its non-compliance, including by granting without further

(more)

delay access to specific additional information and to two locations", as requested by IAEA Director General Hans Blix on 9 February.

The IAEA Board asked the Director General to continue his efforts and dialogue and to report on any significant developments, inter alia, to the Security Council.

* * *

Yasushi Akashi, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, met today with Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in Phnom Penh, to discuss the success of the repatriation effort and the reintegration of the returnees in Cambodia. They also discussed the current migration of ethnic Vietnamese from the Tonle Sap.

In his daily press briefing today in Phnom Penh, the Spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Eric Falt, also announced that Ms. Ogata would hold a press conference on Saturday, 3 April, in the Cambodian capital.

The UNTAC spokesman also reported a number of incidents that had occurred in the last 24 hours, resulting in several casualties.

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1364
2 April 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations spokesman confirms appointment of Thorvald Stoltenberg, Foreign Minister of Norway, to succeed Cyrus Vance as Secretary-General's Special Envoy and Co-Chairman of International Conference on former Yugoslavia.

+ Secretary-General leaves New York for three-week trip to Asia and Europe; to visit London, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Hanoi, Rome, San Marino, Lisbon and Brussels, before returning to Headquarters.

+ Fifteen officers from Salvadoran Army, that President Cristiani had promised to remove, to be placed on leave; will retire no later than 31 December 1993, Secretary-General tells Security Council President.

+ Asian Governments adopt "Declaration of Bangkok" on human rights issues; to be submitted to Preparatory Committee for World Conference on Human Rights, from 19 to 30 April in Geneva.

+ Appointment of seven new Special Rapporteurs, as decided by Human Rights Commission.

+ Secretary-General announces establishment of Trust Fund for Commission of Experts on war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs begins airlift operation of non-food relief equipment to assist disaster-stricken population in Somalia.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Mozambique holds "important meetings" with President of Mozambique and President of RENAMO, separately, on implementation of Peace Agreement.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman confirmed today that Thorvald Stoltenberg, Foreign Minister of Norway, will succeed Cyrus Vance as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy and Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia. An announcement to that effect was made earlier today in Oslo.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The Spokesman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had expressed his gratitude to Mr. Vance for the "intense efforts and great commitment" that he had brought to his function. The Secretary-General was pleased to have Mr. Stoltenberg assume this position, most likely as of 1 May.

In a related development, Fred Eckhard, the spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, said the Security Council would not take action on Bosnia and Herzegovina before next week. In the meantime, Lord Owen would go to Europe for a meeting with the European Community Council of Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg, scheduled for next Monday.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali left New York today to embark on a three-week trip to Asia and Europe, his Spokesman Joe Sills said today.

On the first leg of his trip, the Secretary-General will meet in London with Mr. Attali, the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He will then travel to Phnom Penh, Bangkok and Hanoi, before returning to Rome on 14 April. After a one-day visit to San Marino on 21 April, the Secretary-General will travel to Portugal on the same day for a meeting with representatives of Portugal and Indonesia on the situation in East Timor. The Secretary-General will then go to Brussels. He is expected back at Headquarters on 26 April.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the President of the Security Council that the 15 Salvadoran officers whom President Cristiani had promised to remove from the army, would be placed on leave and retire no later than 31 December 1993.

The Secretary-General told the Council President, in a letter today, that the message to that effect from President Cristiani had been brought to him by the Minister of the Presidency of El Salvador, Oscar Santamaria, on 31 March. The retirement of the 15 officers is in accordance with the Peace Accords for El Salvador concerning purification of the Armed Forces.

* * *

Concluding an unprecedented regional meeting on human rights in Bangkok today, Asian Governments have produced the "Declaration of Bangkok", a consensus document reflecting their positions on a range of human rights issues. The 30-point declaration will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

(more)

Reflecting concerns repeatedly expressed in statements to the plenary meeting, the declaration stresses the need to consider human rights in national and regional contexts and emphasizes the principles of respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. In that regard, it opposes the use of human rights as a condition for development assistance.

The declaration was drafted by representatives of 40 Governments from West Asia and the Pacific under the chairmanship of Mohammad Javad Zarif (Iran). Mr. Zarif said the Declaration was prepared in record time, reflecting the spirit of cooperation among the delegations.

The document will be considered together with the African and Latin American and the Caribbean declarations at the fourth and final Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva, scheduled from 19 to 30 April.

* * *

The Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia), this morning announced the designation of seven country or thematic Special Rapporteurs, as decided by the Commission at its forty-ninth session in Geneva.

The designates are: Robert Dossou (Benin) as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Nigel S. Rodley (United Kingdom), as Special Rapporteur on torture; Gaspar Biro (Hungary), as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan; Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia), as Special Rapporteur charged with examining incidents and measures incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance based on Religion or Belief; Abid Hussain (India), as Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and of expression; Alejandro Artucio Rodriguez (Uruguay), as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea; and Rene Felber (Switzerland), as Special Rapporteur for the occupied Arab territories.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has announced the establishment of a Trust Fund for the Commission of Experts to investigate human rights violations in former Yugoslavia.

The purpose of the Trust Fund is to support the activities of the Commission with a view to providing conclusions on the evidence of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of international humanitarian law committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The Government of Canada announced on 1 April that it was contributing $300,000 to the Trust Fund. Canada is the first State to make such a financial contribution. The Government of Norway has pledged to make a financial contribution to the Trust Fund.

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* * *

An airlift operation of 34 tons of non-food relief equipment to assist the disaster-stricken population in Somalia will arrive in Mogadishu today. The airlift, which is financed by the United Kingdom, is being carried out by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs to support the relief activities of nine non-governmental organizations in that country.

According to a press release issued at headquarters today, the airlift was requested by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia and the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

* * *

The United Nations has held "important meetings" with the President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, and the President of Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, on the subject of the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The meetings were held by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello, on 31 March and 1 April, respectively.

A press communiqué issued at Headquarters said both leaders had assured Mr. Ajello that peace "is an irreversible process", and that they were concerned about the delays in the fulfilment of the Peace Agreement. Mr. Ajello had stressed to President Chissano that the signing of a basic agreement between the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) and the Mozambican Government was "a necessary condition" for ONUMOZ to function properly.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1365
5 April 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in London, holds talks with Egyptian President; receives message from Arab League on sanctions against Libya; scheduled to arrive in Phnom Penh on 7 April.

+ Security Council calls "unacceptable" decision of Bosnian Serb party not to permit further humanitarian aid delivery to Srebrenica.

+ Population of Srebrenica must be protected by enhanced United Nations presence and increased humanitarian aid, or else be evacuated, UNHCR says in letter to Secretary-General; meanwhile, airlift to Sarajevo resumes.

+ Security Council condemns all attacks on UNTAC, particularly recent attacks resulting in death of two Bangladeshi peace-keepers and "cowardly assassination" of three Bulgarians on 2 April; asks Secretary-General to report back urgently on responsibility for "these murderous acts"; Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia calls killing of the three Bulgarian UNTAC soldiers "treacherous and cowardly"; slaying will not go unpunished, says UNTAC spokesman.

+ Azerbaijan says Armenian armed forces have attacked districts of Kelbadjar and Lachin, threatening lives of 60,000 people; Armenia asserts that its forces did not take part in any of those actions.

+ Special Rapporteur on Human Rights situation in former Yugoslavia sends team to eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina to obtain first-hand information on present situation there.

+ Secretary-General emphasizes contribution by youth in building new approaches to international cooperation, in message to twelfth World Assembly of Youth, meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

+ Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations again calls on Security Council to protect Palestinians in occupied territory, including Jerusalem, in accordance with Council resolution 681 (1990).

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ Barbados asks for inclusion of new General Assembly agenda item for this session entitled "Emergency assistance to Cuba".

+ Importance of foreign direct investment to international growth and development stressed at annual meeting of Commission on Transnational Corporations today at Headquarters.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this morning in London with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and later with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Esmat Abdel Meguid.

In a statement to the press following his meeting with President Mubarak, the Secretary-General said he had discussed with the Egyptian President the problems of the Middle East, including the question of the Palestinian deportees. They had also talked about "the most pressing problems" of the African continent. President Mubarak will fill the Presidency of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as of month of June.

During his meeting with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Boutros-Ghali received a message from seven Arab and African Ministers of Foreign Affairs regarding the Libyan question. Mr. Boutros-Ghali will convey the message to the President of the Security Council, which is due to review the sanctions against Libya on 10 April.

The Secretary-General left London today for Phnom Penh via Bangkok. He will arrive in the Cambodian capital on Wednesday, 7 April.

* * *

The Security Council has expressed shock and extreme alarm at the dire and worsening humanitarian situation in the enclaved Bosnian city of Srebrenica. In a statement issued over the weekend, the Council called "unacceptable" the decision by the Serb party not to permit any further humanitarian aid to be delivered to that town, and to allow only evacuation of its civilian population.

Under the statement, read out by Council President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan), the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serb party honour its most recent commitment to guarantee the free movement of humanitarian convoys and the protection of endangered civilians. It condemned the Bosnian Serb party's pursuit of its unlawful, unacceptable and abhorrent policy of "ethnic cleansing", aimed at territorial aggrandizement, which had blocked the United Nations humanitarian relief efforts.

Recognizing the imperative need to urgently alleviate the sufferings of the population in and around Srebrenica, the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serb party cease and desist from all violations of international humanitarian law, particularly the deliberate interference with humanitarian convoys.

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The Council also condemned the continuing disregard and wilful flouting of its resolutions and statements by the Bosnian Serb party, and urged the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to use all the resources at their disposal to reinforce the existing humanitarian operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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If the people trapped in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica are to be saved, the United Nations must either enhance the international presence there -- including the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) -- and provide humanitarian relief to the protected area, or carry out a large-scale evacuation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata has told Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. She noted that the first option would require the strongest political pressure from the international community on the Serbian side.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 2 April, Mrs. Ogata said that 20-30,000 persons were trapped in Srebrenica, with another 30,000 in the surrounding area. They were desperately in need of food, medicine, clothing and shelter. Many refugees feared that the Bosnian Serbs would pursue their military objective to gain control of the town, and that the cease-fire would not hold. "They are desperate to escape...because they see no other prospect than death if they remain where they are," she said.

Only three UNHCR convoys had reached Srebrenica in the past two weeks, the letter noted. Departing trucks were forced to evacuate over 5,560 women, children and elderly, and several hundred wounded persons. Several people were crushed to death in a stampede to escape the town. The Bosnian Serb military had since said that it would not permit any more aid to be brought into Srebrenica, but would allow UNHCR to continue the evacuation only.

Mrs. Ogata's letter was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council.

In a separate development, the UNHCR yesterday resumed its humanitarian airlift to the besieged city of Sarajevo, following a security assessment and new assurances of safe and unhindered access to all sides. Seventeen flights were scheduled to land yesterday at Sarajevo airport.

The airlift was interrupted on 19 March, after a British plane was shot at by anti-craft artillery while on its final approach to landing. The resumption of the flights will bring assistance to more than 350,000 people, at a time when food stocks in the city have become dangerously low.
S/25519

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The Security Council this afternoon strongly condemned all attacks on the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), particularly the recent attacks which have resulted in the death of two Bangladeshi members of

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UNTAC and "the cowardly assassination" of three members of the Bulgarian contingent of UNTAC on 2 April.

In a Presidential statement read out by Council President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan) on behalf of its members, the Council asked the Secretary-General to report back urgently on the circumstances of "these murderous acts" and the responsibility for them.

The Council expressed its strong support for UNTAC in carrying out its mandate within the framework of the Paris Agreements of 1991 and demanded that all hostile acts against UNTAC cease immediately and that all parties take measures to safeguard the security of UNTAC personnel.

The Council restated its determination that the democratic elections in Cambodia be held from 23 to 27 May and stressed the importance of creating a neutral political environment in that country, including an end to acts of violence and of all threats and intimidation committed on political or ethnic grounds.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, has also condemned what he called "the treacherous and cowardly attack" Friday night of the three Bulgarian soldiers with UNTAC by a group of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

According to UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt in Phnom Penh yesterday, Mr. Akashi had told a meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council that the violent attacks in the past two weeks against UNTAC personnel had reached "unacceptably high levels". He deplored the ineffectiveness of the local authorities to take "the necessary steps" to offer protection to the population and to control their troops.

The slaying of the three Bulgarian soldiers would not go unpunished and the matter would be "vigorously" protested and brought up with the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, the spokesman said. UNTAC was also considering the prosecution of those responsible for the attack, who were well known to the Authority.

Turning to the recent migration of ethnic Vietnamese from the Tonle Sap area, Mr. Falt confirmed that Mr. Akashi would meet later today with the Special Envoy of Vietnam, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, to discuss that issue.

Meanwhile, the Government of Vietnam has maintained that UNTAC and the administrative structures in Cambodia have "not only the moral, but also legal obligations to protect the ethnic Vietnamese" living there.

According to a statement issued by the spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Paris Agreements of 1991 stipulate that "UNTAC shall be responsible during the transitional period for fostering an environment in which respect for human rights shall be ensured". More specifically, she said, the Agreement stipulates that in the

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event of serious violations of human rights in Cambodia, the competent organs of the United Nations will be called upon to take appropriate steps for the prevention and suppression of such violations.

The note comes in response to recent statements by UNTAC that it cannot protect the hundreds of families of ethnic Vietnamese residents who are fleeing from the acts of ethnic violence against them in the nord-west Cambodia. UNTAC has said that the responsibility for protecting the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia rests with the Government in Phnom Penh.

The Vietnamese statement was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter, dated 30 March, signed by the Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the United Nations, Trinh Xuan Lang.
S/25497

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Azerbaijan has informed the United Nations that 12 villages in the district of Kelbadjar have now been occupied by the armed forces of Armenia, threatening the lives of 60,000 people in the area.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 31 March, the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Azerbaijan, Hassan Hassanov, further said that some 30 villages and the whole nothern part of the Lachin district were at present cut off by Armenian forces. Mr. Hassanov called upon "the whole world community" to influence the aggressor and avert the deaths of tens of thousands of peaceful people in the Kelbadjar and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, Armenia has contended that Azerbaijan, on 23 March, began a "massive military offensive" aimed at the region of Mardakert in Nagorno-Karabakh and the humanitarian corridor in Lachin, on the southern border of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to a letter to the Council President, dated 1 April, from the Armenian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Alexander Arzoumanian, "Karabakh Self-Defence Forces were compelled to take decisive countermeasures in response to this offensive". He asserted that "no military forces from the Republic of Armenia took part in any of these actions", but that Armenian forces remained on full alert on their positions along the Armenian_Azerbaijan border.
Documents S/25509, S/25510

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The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, has sent a team to eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina to obtain first-hand information on the present situation in that area. Mr. Mazowiecki was appointed last August by the Commission on Human Rights to investigate human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia and to make recommendations to prevent their future occurrence.

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According to a press release issued at Headquarters, the objective of the fact-finding mission is to attempt to gather reliable testimonies from those directly affected by the recent hostilities in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular refugees and displaced persons. The mission will first visit Tuzla and then travel to all places where victims of violations from that area have sought refuge.

When the mission returns to Geneva, the Special Rapporteur will report on the team's findings to the Human Rights Commission and, through the Secretary-General, to the Security Council.

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Young people can make an important contribution in building new approaches to international cooperation, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the twelfth World Assembly of Youth, meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 3 to 7 April.

New ideas and concepts were needed to promote international peace and security, economic and social development, democracy and human rights, he said. Young people possessed the required qualities of imagination, creativity and generosity in abundance.

The Secretary-General went on to say that preparations were under way for the International Youth Year in 1995, and the Commission for Social Development had recently considered a draft youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, which would go before the General Assembly in 1995.

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The Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Nasser Al-Kidwa, has called on the international community and the Security Council to protect the Palestinian people, in accordance with Council resolution 681 (1990). In doing so, he referred to the request made by the Arab Group on 22 March for the Council to meet to consider the serious situation in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. Al-Kidwa said the repressive policies and practices of Israel against the Palestinian people were escalating. On 30 March, the Israeli Government had sealed off the occupied territory of the West Bank, except Arab Jerusalem, had increased the activities of the armed forces there, and had changed the open-fire regulations for Israeli soldiers against Palestinian civilians. In March alone, 28 Palestinian civilians had been killed and more than 800 injured, he noted.

Mr. Al-Kidwa referred to a letter from the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations, dated 29 March, which, he said, reflected official Israeli policy not to recognize that the occupation itself was the cause of the prevailing situation in the Palestinian territory. Israelis in the territory were "colonial settlers brought there by the Israeli authorities in flagrant

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violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and against numerous Security Council resolutions," he asserts.

Official Palestinian policy remained unchanged with regard to the intifadah and the current peace process, he went on to say. However, Israeli policies and practices, including the deportation of more than 400 Palestinian civilians in December 1992 and Israeli non-compliance with Security Council resolution 799 (1992), seriously undermined the prospects for the peace process.
S/25511

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Barbados has asked for the inclusion of an additional item in the General Assembly agenda for its forty-seventh session entitled "Emergency assistance to Cuba". The request was forwarded to the Assembly by the Permanent Representative of Barbados, Besley Maycock, in his capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 31 March, Mr. Maycock pointed out that eight of the 14 provinces of Cuba had been seriously affected by unusually strong winds, which had destroyed thousands of homes, production and service installations, such as hospitals, schools and food storages, and inflicted heavy losses on staple crops, such as banana, and the sugar harvest. Intense sea-water flooding also caused the loss of full stocks of antibiotics, he said.

Although national efforts have been fully deployed to counter the effects of the storm, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States considered it necessary that the United Nations encourage the provision of massive international assistance to Cuba.

* * *

The Commission on Transnational Corporations began its annual 10-day meeting at Headquarters today, aiming to promote the contribution of foreign direct investment to international growth and development.

Work is expected to focus on the role that foreign investors can play in privatization and in aiding structural reform in developing countries and economies in transition. Transnational corporation executives will air their views on key trade and investment issues facing policy-makers. The Commission will review trends in foreign direct investment, including the emergence of global production systems and the growth in investment flows to developing countries. It will also consider the corporate response to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Meanwhile, the United Nations has established a list of the world's 100 largest transnational corporations in an effort to shed some light on who are the world's most significant foreign investors.

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According to the listing, issued by the United Nations Transnational Corporations and Management Division in the Department of Economic and Social Development, Royal Dutch Shell -- a British-Dutch combine with $106 billion in total assets -- is the largest transnational. It is followed by Ford with $55 billion and General Motors, $52 billion, in foreign assets.

There are currently over 36,000 parent transnational corporations, of which 3,000 are from developing countries, according to the listing. These parents give rise to over 170,000 affiliates, over half of which are located in developing countries.

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CORRECTION:

In Friday Highlights, 2 April, third sentence of the second paragraph of the story on the Secretary-General's trip to Asia and Europe should have read:

The Secretary-General is scheduled to visit San Marino on 16 April. While in Rome, he will meet with representatives of Portugal and Indonesia on the situation in East Timor.

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